

# Chuckanut Mountain Trail Systems



## Public Land

- Washington Dept of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Washington State Parks
- Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- City of Bellingham
- Whatcom or Skagit County
- State-owned Public Tidelands

## Trail Systems

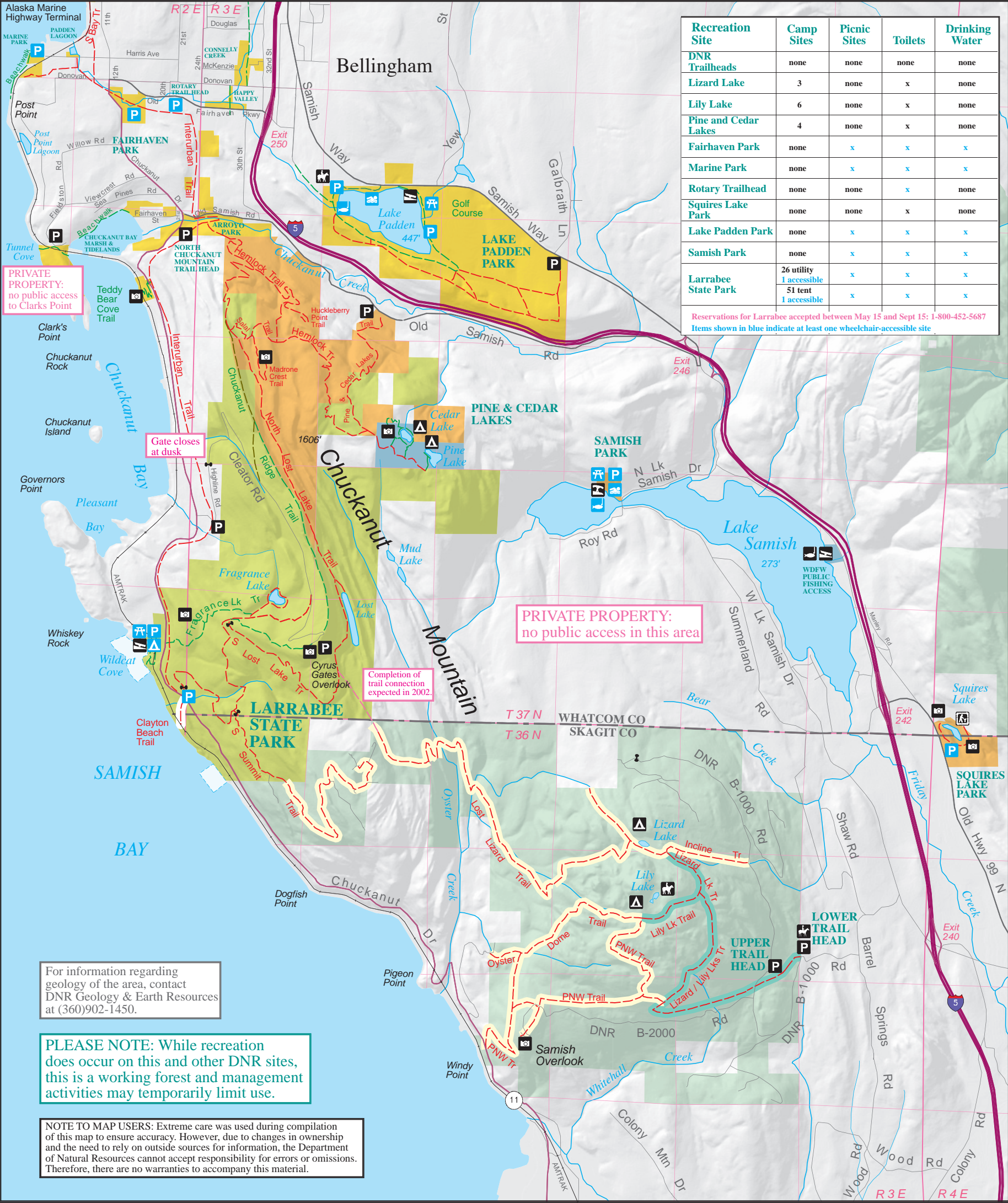
- Hiker Only
- Non-motorized Multiple Use (Hiker/Equestrian/Bicyclist)
- Non-motorized Multiple Use (No Mountain Bikes allowed)
- Gate
- DNR-maintained Trail Non-motorized Multiple Use (Hiker/Equestrian/Bicyclist)
- User-maintained Trail Non-motorized Multiple Use (Hiker/Equestrian/Bicyclist)

## Recreation Sites

- Trailhead Parking
- Campground
- Viewpoint
- Interpretive Site
- Horse Facilities
- Boat Launch
- Hand Boat Launch
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Wheelchair Accessible

Published 1999 by Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Map produced by Forest Resources Division, Public Use/Engineering Division, Resource Mapping Cartography. Data from DNR GIS, DNR Northwest Region, Larrabee State Park, Whatcom and Skagit Counties, City of Bellingham, USGS topographic maps, and other available sources.

Contact public agency regarding accessibility. Please note that parking shown in blue does not indicate an accessible trail.





These Trails Depend On You

The heavily used Chuckanut Mountain trails are located in Northwestern Washington, just south of the Bellingham metropolitan area. With limited public funding, trails often remain open because of volunteer maintenance efforts. Get involved by contacting:



Lily and Lizard Lakes Trail

Photo by Cherylyn Petersen

**City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation**  
Greenway Volunteer Coordinator  
3424 Meridian St  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 676-6985

**Department of Natural Resources Northwest Region**  
919 N Township St  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-9395  
(360) 856-3500

Emergency! Emergency!

Phone numbers you need to know:  
■ **Medical Aid/Sheriff — 911**  
■ **Vandalism — 1-800-527-3305**  
■ **To report Wildfires — 1-800-562-6010 or 911**

Persons needing the information contained in this brochure in an alternative format may call:  
(360) 902-1340 or  
TTY (360) 902-1125



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**



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1999  
trail  
map

Chuckanut  
Mountain  
Trail Systems

Chuckanut Mountain  
Trail Systems



View from Chuckanut Drive

Photo by Randy Warnock



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

**Doug Sutherland** - Commissioner of Public Lands

Chuckanut Mountain

Located at the southern limits of the city of Bellingham, much of Chuckanut Mountain is comprised of public ownership at the city, county, and state levels. There are many opportunities for outdoor activities.

To the south, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages an area of "working forest"-- part of the permanent endowment of trust lands managed by DNR.

Wealth for the trust  
beneficiaries...forever

The Department of Natural Resources was created by the Washington State Legislature in 1957 to manage state-owned trust lands. The Commissioner of Public Lands heads the agency of 1,400 employees working throughout the state. Under DNR's management, 5 million acres of state land have generated more than \$4 billion since 1970. These trust lands generate continuing revenue for trust beneficiaries while maintaining healthy ecosystems and resources. This assures future generations the benefits we enjoy today.



DNR Forest Road

Photo by Cherylyn Petersen

Recreation is multiple-use

Many of the trails featured in this brochure are multiple-use trails open to hikers, horses, and mountain bikes. A few are hiking-only trails. Please be courteous to others. *Also note: No motorized vehicles are allowed on these trails.*

Chuckanut Mountain Area

**History**  
Viewing the shaded relief representation of the terrain on the map, one can see the folded layers of sandstone which were deposited as fine sediment 55 million years ago. Native Americans first appeared on the scene after the continental glaciers receded. Later, during the 1800s, Euro-American settlers arrived.  
Today the Chuckanut Mountain area is a popular recreation area. Bellingham, population about 58,000, sits just to the north. People come from Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. and beyond to visit this uniquely beautiful area.



View from Chuckanut Mountain  
Photo by Randy Warnock

**A Working Forest**  
Much of the Chuckanut and Samish Bay area was extensively logged in the past. Portions of the area are still currently managed for commercial forestry. The area managed by DNR is a working forest. Visitors may encounter a variety of modern forest management techniques. Great care is taken in designing individual timber sales to protect this biologically diverse ecosystem. **Forest management activities may temporarily limit use of trails.**

**Fauna and Flora**  
In prehistoric times this area was subtropical as evidenced by fossil remains found in rock cuts along Chuckanut Drive.  
Talus slopes, caves, high cliffs, waterfalls, wetlands, streams, lakes, and marine shoreline are all part of the mixed coniferous ecosystem that currently covers Chuckanut Mountain.

DNR Trailheads

Two trailheads provide access to DNR trails. These are non-motorized, multiple-use trails with spurs to Lily and Lizard lakes. Both lakes offer camping and fishing in a pretty, forested setting.  
The lower trailhead has ample space for unloading horses, while the upper trailhead provides parking for approximately two vehicles and is used primarily by hikers and mountain bikers.  
**Directions from I-5:**  
*To get to the DNR trailheads, take exit 240. Go N on Samish Lake Rd for 0.5 mi, then turn left on Barrel Springs Rd. Go 1.0 mi, then turn right on DNR B-1000 Rd. Continue 1.0 mi to lower trailhead. It is only a short ways further to the upper trailhead, but parking there is limited.*

- Please remember:
- On the trails**

  - Stay on maintained trails; please don't cut switchbacks.
  - Respect the rights of others on trails.
  - Watch for hazardous trail conditions.
  - Dogs must be leashed.

**In the Campground**

  - Camp in designated campsites.
  - Do not alter or remove vegetation.
  - Pack out garbage and litter.
  - Limit fires to steel campsite fireplaces.
  - Maintain quiet between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Other Recreation Opportunities

**GENERAL RECREATION**  
**Chuckanut Drive** Significant in that it was the first road in Washington to be built exclusively as a scenic route, Chuckanut Drive offers 10 mi of stunning views of Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. *From I-5 S, take Bellingham exit 250. From I-5 N, take Burlington exit 231.*  
**Fairhaven Park** A community park with picnic facilities, tennis courts, playground, and summer wading pool. *Access from Chuckanut Drive or Fairhaven Parkway.*  
**Lake Padden Park** Golf course, playgrounds, and lighted ballfields available. 2.6 mi walking/jogging trail around lake; 5 mi horse trail loop up ridge to south; shared mountain bike/horse trails east of lake. *Access from Samish Way.*

Other Recreation Opportunities

**TRAILS**  
**South Bay Trail** -- (City of Bellingham) 2 mi multiple-use scenic trail along shore. *Connects with Interurban Trail.*  
**Interurban Trail** -- (City of Bellingham/Whatcom County) 5.9 mi multiple-use forest trail above Chuckanut Drive. *Access from Fairhaven Parkway and 20th St, Arroyo Park, Highline Road, or Larrabee State Park.*  
**Arroyo Park** -- (City of Bellingham) A natural area park with trails and creek. *Parking area on Old Samish Hwy.*  
**North Chuckanut Mountain Trailhead** -- (City of Bellingham/Whatcom County) Trailhead parking area providing access to Chuckanut Mountain Trails. *At the intersection of Chuckanut Drive and California St.*  
**Teddy Bear Cove Trail** -- (Whatcom County) 0.9 mi hiking trail to shoreline views of Chuckanut Bay. *At intersection of Chuckanut Drive and California Street.*  
**Squires Lake Trails** -- (Whatcom County) 3.7 mi (round trip) multiple-use interpretive trail. *At Hwy 99 between I-5 S Lake Samish and Alger exits.*  
**Samish Park** -- (Whatcom County) 0.7 mi lakeshore and 1.3 mi hillside loop trails. *Trail begins along Samish Lake.*  
**Pine and Cedar Lakes** -- (Whatcom County) This 3 mi multiple-use trail climbs steeply to a fork that loops around Cedar Lake with a spur leading to views of Bellingham, the Cascades and the San Juan Islands. Another fork leads to Pine Lake. Small campsites and outhouses exist at the lakes. *Access from Old Samish Hwy.*  
**Fragrance Lake** -- (Larrabee State Park) 1.9 mi hiking trail connects with a 0.75 mi lake loop. A 0.25 mi spur midway on the trail takes one to excellent viewing of the San Juan Islands. A boardwalk crosses over a marshy area at the lake. *Access from Chuckanut Drive.*  
**Clayton Beach** -- (Puget Power) A 0.7 mi extension of the Interurban right-of-way, this multiple-use trail follows an old railroad grade to access the beach. Horses not allowed on beach. *Access from Chuckanut Drive.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
For information regarding additional recreational opportunities in the area, contact:  
**Larrabee State Park**  
245 Chuckanut Dr, Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360)676-2093  
**Whatcom County Parks and Recreation**  
3373 Mt Baker Hwy, Bellingham, WA 98226-9522  
(360)733-2900  
**City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation**  
3424 Meridian St, Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 676-6985